



REVIEWED BY CR 6872 8/31/89
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 TS authority to: OADR

TELEGRAM

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 ACTION NEA-11

INFO: DOJ-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
 NSIC-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
 LOGAR B

-----003580 270113Z 712

R 251130Z FEB 80

FM AMBASSUL PESHAWAR
 TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 609
 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 AMEMBASSY KABUL
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

R

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E.O. 12065: NA
 TAGS: PEPH, MOPS, AF, PK, UR
 SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AIRBASE CONSTRUCTION
 REF: STATE 040959 ✓

1. REFTEL REPORTS INTER ALIA THAT DEPT. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON AIR BASES SOVIETS SAID TO BE BUILT IN "ON" PAKISTAN BORDER. RECENTLY, AN AFGHAN REFUGEE MENTIONED TWO SITES IN AFGHANISTAN IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS DESERT WHERE SOVIETS APPEARED TO BE INVOLVED IN "MYSTERIOUS" CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, WHICH COULD BE AIR BASES.

2. REFUGEE CAME THROUGH HERE ON FEB. 9 AFTER TRAVELLING THROUGH LOGAR AND PAKTIA PROVINCES. ACCORDING TO HIM, ONE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IS IN SURKAB DESERT IN LOGAR. SITE IS EAST OF VILLAGE OF MOHAMMAD AGHA (ON MAIN KABUL-KANDAHAR ROAD) AND SOUTH OF SURKAB DAM. TRAVELER TOOK PROJECT TO BE A NEW AIR BASE AS HE COULD THINK OF NO OTHER REASON FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN SUCH AN

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3. ACCORDING TO REFUGEE, OTHER AFGHANS HAD MENTIONED AN APPARENTLY SIMILAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT NEAR FARAHROD IN FARAH PROVINCE. SITE IS SAID TO BE EAST OF MAIN ROAD.

4. COMMENT: BOTH FARAHROD AND SURKAB SITES ARE RELATIVELY CLOSE TO EXISTING AIRBASES: SHINDAND IN THE WEST AND KABUL AND JALALABAD IN THE EAST. THUS, FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, IT IS A BIT DIFFICULT TO SEE THE NEED FOR NEW BASES.
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